

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
December 14, 2009

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building. This special meeting is a joint meeting with the Mansfield Board of Education and the Mansfield School Building Committee.

WORK SESSION/ SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

1. Report on Committee Activities

Superintendent of Mansfield Schools Fred Baruzzi presented a history of the project and discussed the four options that the Committee has been pursuing. These options are as follows:

- a. Repair and maintenance of the 3 Elementary Schools and the Middle School
- b. Maintenance of the Middle School and renovations and additions to the 3 Elementary Schools
- c. Maintenance of the Middle School and renovation and additions to 2 of the Elementary Schools and the closing of the other.
- d. Maintenance of the Middle School and the building of a new central Elementary School.

2. Presentation/Discussion

Rick Lawrence of The Lawrence Associates reviewed the options in detail presenting preliminary floor plans and updated cost information. Mr. Lawrence also discussed possible uses for the existing schools should they not be used as schools. Director of Planning Greg Padick updated those present on the efforts to find a suitable location for Option 4. Mr. Padick stated that based on the research to date the Southeast School location seems to be the most feasible. Director of Finance Cherie Trahan presented a cost comparison of the presented options and discussed the impact of the various options on the Debt Service Fund in future years.

3. Next Steps

Those present discussed the timing of the required referendum, the advisability of one elementary school, the best location for Option 4, transportation costs and the maintenance cost of unused schools.

Mayor Paterson suggested all parties review the materials presented and formulate questions and concerns that can be discussed at the next meeting after the first of the year. Mr. Padick agreed to further investigate private land possibilities prior to the next meeting.

School Board Chair Mark LaPlaca thanked all participants for their input and in order to generate greater input asked everyone to think about the best level of inclusion for the general public.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk.